

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### **ELSC LEGAL OFFICER: UK PROJECT**

UK-based

#### **ABOUT US**

The European Legal Support Center is the first and only independent organisation providing free and professional legal support and assistance to associations, groups and individuals advocating for Palestinian rights in Europe. The ELSC intervenes to end arbitrary restrictions and the criminalisation of peaceful advocacy and humanitarian work. It also develops legal tools and strategies to support civil society advocacy and campaigns. The Center was established in January 2019 as a joint initiative of European jurists, the Palestinian civil society network PNGO and the Dutch NGO, The Rights Forum.

As part of the 'defend pillar' of our work, we assist clients when their rights have been restricted, such as in [Germany](#), [The Netherlands](#), [Spain](#) and [elsewhere](#). In particular, we have provided free legal support and assistance to many individuals, groups and organisations based in the UK who have faced repression of their right to freedom of expression through smear campaigns, unfounded complaints and cancellation of events. Under our 'monitor pillar', we collect and analyse incidents of attacks for the production of [Monitoring Reports](#).

We now have an exciting opportunity to expand our team and establish a more formal presence in the UK. Therefore, we are looking for a qualified Legal Officer based in the UK to carry out ELSC's activities in the UK and expand its team.

#### **THE ROLE**

As the UK Legal Officer, you will be responsible for overseeing all cases and projects emanating from the UK. The UK Legal Officer will report to the ELSC's program Director, Giovanni Fassina. Your role will cover five main areas of work: **a)** overseeing casework and research on the repression of Palestinian rights advocates in the UK; **b)** providing legal advice to ELSC clients on their rights under UK domestic law and European human rights law; **c)** developing strategies and guides to defend those affected by restrictive policies; **d)** analysing relevant legislation and jurisprudence under UK and EU law; and **e)** organising and participating in workshops and advocacy events.

Specific tasks include:

- Conducting legal research into domestic law relevant to new casework
- Dealing with the client intake process by conducting initial assessment meetings and gathering relevant evidence and documentation
- Developing legal strategies and draft legal opinions, notes, memos, and summaries in coordination with our network of lawyers
- Responding to requests for assistance
- Managing a small team of caseworkers and volunteers
- Maintaining effective communication with clients and partner organisations
- Regularly coordinating with the ELSC Legal Network
- Organising and facilitating workshops with activists, academics, students and lawyers both online and in-person
- Training new staff
- Speaking at relevant events on behalf of the ELSC
- Any other task relating to the daily work of the wider ELSC team

## PRACTICAL DETAILS

**Qualifications:** A law degree (LLB) and/or Master's (LLM). Candidates who have obtained a Bar Professional Training Course/Bar Training Course, Legal Practice Course or have recently qualified as solicitors are strongly encouraged to apply. Candidates with relevant paralegal experience will also be considered.

**Languages:** English is the working language of the ELSC. Knowledge of German/Dutch/Arabic would be a unique advantage.

### Required Skills:

- Excellent communication and legal writing skills
- Organisational and management skills
- An ability to deal with a heavy work load and to work well under pressure
- Excellent time management skills
- A strong work ethic
- Knowledge of UK domestic law, particularly in the areas of Judicial Review, Public Law, Equality, Employment, the Human Rights Act, Defamation and Privacy.
- Commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people or other causes of political and social justice
- An ability to commit to at least 2 years of work with the ELSC

*The ELSC is committed to be an equal opportunities organisation and we value diversity in all areas. No rights can be derived from the above statements. The ELSC reserves the right to amend and change the responsibilities or withdraw calls for application in line with organisational needs. All offers are subject to funding approvals.*

**Location:** The position will be home-based in London or the surrounding areas with the requirement that applicants must be able to frequently participate in in-person meetings with clients and partner organisations.

**How to Apply:** Please send your CV, a **one-page** cover letter outlining why you want to work for the ELSC and how you meet our requirements, and a legal writing sample, in English, to [application@elsc.support](mailto:application@elsc.support). The deadline for applications is **17 Apr 2022**. The shortlisted candidates will be invited to an initial online interview. Prior to the interview, candidates will be asked to complete a short assignment. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback to candidates who are not shortlisted. the week of **18, and 25 Apr 2022**.

Further information on our work can be found on our website. Specific questions should be directed to [application@elsc.support](mailto:application@elsc.support).

**Start date and training period:** This position is **32-36 hours** per-week. The position will commence **16 May 2022**. The successful candidate will be required to undertake **2 months training (16-24 hours)** before commencing the role of Legal Officer in **mid-July 2022**. Training will involve working alongside the current Legal Officer on the specific tasks outlined above to ensure that the candidate has the requisite expertise and knowledge to successfully manage the UK team.

**Remuneration:** Selected candidates will be paid as consultants during the 2-month training period, with a salary ranging from **£1,100 - £1,300, monthly (gross)** for a **16-24 hours** per week, and will be offered a one-year employment contract following finalisation of training and appointment as Legal Officer in July 2022 with an annual salary ranging from **£27,000 - £35,000 (gross)** for a 32-36 hours per-week, depending on the candidate's level of experience.

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